Graduate students are at the heart of Berkeley’s world-celebrated excellence in research and teaching. We know that fostering their talent yields extraordinary results.

Graduate fellowship funding is a critical tool to attract the very best and brightest students to Berkeley’s more than 100 graduate programs, many of which rank among the best in the world. Berkeley’s faculty often cite the high caliber of our graduate students as the top factor contributing to their work satisfaction. Fellowships for graduate students help attract and retain the brilliant faculty who are fundamental to our excellence.

The Berkeley Endowments to Attract and Retain Graduate Students (BEAR GradS) program provides a match of $500,000 for gifts of $500,000 to create doctoral fellowship endowments of $1,000,000. Fellowships at this magnitude generate annual earnings that approach the real costs of graduate study (tuition, fees, and living stipend) over the course of an academic year.

The BEAR GradS program was launched in 2015, with matching funds derived from generous bequests to Berkeley from alumni Helene I. Cantor ’35, William V. Power ’30, and Raymond H. Berner. BEAR GradS fellowships are administered as part of Berkeley’s most prestigious annual fellowship competition, which is held early in the admissions cycle to ensure that the “best of the best” admitted students receive our most generous funding packages.

Despite overall endowment levels that pale in comparison to private peers, Berkeley is frequently hailed as one of the world’s premier universities. BEAR GradS endowments help expand these perpetual funds to preserve our excellence for future generations.

Learn more about BEAR GradS at graduategiving.berkeley.edu/beargrads/ or contact Executive Director for Development, Liz Moress, (510)643-5043, lizmoress@berkeley.edu